Hoffman Notes N.O. 11/2+3/68

Corrupted account of history & of American political values & preferences - i.e. FDR & JFK were "accidents" but not Jefferson, Lincoln, Jackson; we prefer & like the Robber Barons, i.e., Rockefeller, who had to hire a P.R man to fool people or all

Romanticized account of JFK, end of his past & the beginning of his Presidency

In a book like this it is not enough for the essence of what is written to be true; it must also be relevant and appropriate. The author is poisoning the readers' mind against the American society

and its leaders used hypnotizing
it to make a hero of the
Kennedy of the period when, in
fact, he ~~took~~ was a failure — for
his campaign was a continuous
no matter how attractive &
unimpressive & until the Cuba
missile crisis he was always
wrong in foreign affairs & [illegible]
Bay + typescript page 80 [illegible]
[illegible] attached.

But this author
~~[illegible]~~ types his M.S.
on legal-size paper with
printed, drawn lines at the
bottom to space on footnotes)

This reads like press [illegible].

p31 "Kennedy aroused to make
politics once again the present

Career in America". Nuts.
For the yokels - roaming yokels.
32 - His speeches were not
"strange" to Americans (FDR?)
- "In the first six days of the
war, a man who thought was
a dead man". ??
33 "Washington - a sleepy little town
under Truman, cap. of a
provincial government in Eisen-
hower's time, it became under
Kennedy the true capital of
the nation."
- "Past Presidents of the U States
always felt obliged to hide their play
kind not worthy" - like Harding,
Cleveland?
- "The generals' & senators' wives
in Kalorama Road" - not the right

name & address for the JFK years
34 "only the oil magnates, lobbyists, especially at the Carroll (sic) Arms Hotel, did not feel left out"

1) Spelling

2) This may be where they went hobnobbing with Congressional people but it is hardly the place the real "magnates" did their real "lobbying", for it is not one of the better hotels. This little place became famous with Bobby Baker. Here again indications the writer really does not know D.C.

- "Washington was totally transformed ... under the scrutiny of the wild [illegible] socialists of the New Frontier, masters at the W.H.

[illegible] not to spit" and
to check their [illegible] & [illegible]
with the best he, no doubt:

35 "He had no need for a
strong wife"

37 "Her biggest mistake was in
considering John Kennedy
first as a husband, secondly as
a Kennedy and never as
President of the U. S."

He goes after her with a
sharp knife even in lengthy
footnote. It is neither
necessary nor appropriate,
serves no point other
than to make JFK seem
more the ~~[illegible]~~ long-suffering
hero - part of a device to make
of him what he wasn't.

He contrasts Jackie, of whom
some of his criticism is
raised up without point or place
in such a book, with "simple"
Mamie E. whose innovation
was that of a drunk - and
presents Ike as another
simple man when the
jokes in D.C. were of his
tastes (western novels &
movies) and affair with
his Army secretary Kay
Summersby. Just that
innocent writing and not part
of any assassination
design, not even positive
stage setting.

life ("Kennedy Keeps Mistress"!) is a really simple thing level, to say that there was no substantial comment on his pleasure life. But what of the author who was once of such skill & still quotes it as meaningful official writing — the minions of the WSRP & his failure on its involvement in the story)

What Hersh places was his personal life in this book — the notion that the Secret Service supplied him with call girls "when he was really in a hurry"

44 The "liberal intellectuals . . . would have liked to see more lost causes, more big defeats . . ."
Revilo P. Oliver Bircher as intellectual sample!

45-6 In the course of this God-painting of the moral, all-knowing JFK against whom all were aligned, the author cites as an example his moral code for the govt, including the ban on the acceptance of gifts, forgetting that in the previous chapter he criticized the President's wife for ~~just~~ just that.

49 In condemning Allen Dulles, he fails to note he was one of JFK's first two reappointments (Hoover) & that JFK kept him on a half year after Bay of Pigs, but immediately thereafter

50 tells of JFK's wish "to inject new blood into the senior ranks of the

administration..."

51 One of JFK's "few mistakes" was cancelling subscription to NYH/T — the only one cited as an example

55 On the list of those who hated JFK (everyone) "the medical profession.. surpassed all others."

56 An "expert" quoting Manchester?!!

97 "Ever since its creation by Theodore Roosevelt, the FBI has been at war with what it calls "the forces of evil." (not then created)

1.4 "The Democratic Party is the only true national party" — not as of this writing is this true (see 232 also)

— After reading part and scanning the rest of part and after having heard this book praised & discussed by its sponsors, I am nevertheless of the opinion that it is designed to be an

in many ways is impressive, but
about Rusk that, even in its
doctrine, are not relevant. This is
a poisoning of the well of the
readers' mind. After reading it
& earlier part 3 I am convinced
it is not a genuine work & is expen-
sively and carefully designed for other
purposes. They are not yet clear to me.
My impression is that it is for
hurt to the United States, quite
possibly to the solution of the crime).

~~Part One~~ Part 2

137 – To say JFK expanded missiles as the
response of weakness is not enough. To say
Khrushchev "backed down" is to confess
ignorance.

144 "Kennedy was unable to thaw the cold
war by diplomacy," etc. Not at that
date, though he pretended to.

144 Cuban missile crisis.

This brief section of but a page is an entire misrepresentation of what happened & what the two leaders said and did. It, for example has no quotation from Khrushchev. It does~~n't~~ not tell the reader what happened or why, what the situation or its effect, what the problem was that brought it on – why it was brought on & the alternatives. It amounts to a rewriting of history, for in this book, the condition is such the overwhelming documentation so enormous (whether or not pertinent) that the author cannot be considered *ignorant*, uninformed or stupid. After reading the chapter on business and businessmen I am more clear even of the opinion all of this seeming background material, so extensive a part of the book, serves the purpose of padding and [illegible], is a mask for the paucity of information – even undependable or conjectural information – on the assassination itself. All of this stuff on business is not related to the assassination

Oilmen – 186 It is doubtful that because "the USSR is feeling its way into the world petroleum market" that "this has led to a change in its Middle East policy." With no petroleum interests there its policy would have changed as it has, if only in reaction to USA policies. (See 198, for example)

196 ff on "The CIA revolution action", the total description of what happened in Iran in 1955, he regarded as an ade

greater description in a book with so much theory expressed, so very much touch great emphasis on oil? It makes me wonder

Again I note the overall merit of this chapter is a pitch as an effort to establish a motive for the assassination. It blatantly repeats what is well known, [illegible] it seeks to establish in the reader's mind that the real & only motive for the murder was the prevention of JFK's elimination of the 27.5% oil depletion allowance.

With the knowledge that this book is of foreign origin, the influence if not the fact being of official origin, there is this unmistakable possibility: that it was written for ulterior purposes to its mischief, perhaps to trigger a U.S. reaction that would work toward eliminating the favorable competitive position of Soviet companies, or at least to hurt them.

It is by now clear that the press has shifted to Hearst, & the next page bears this out. He, despite his great wealth & influence, is the vulnerable one because he is hated by so many because of his personal & transient politics, and because he is a Republican. He is certainly the one who or what could press on the "tribunals" – almost anyone but the reactionaries – to strong reaction. If I am right, this is a truly diabolical trick.

228 ~~the~~ "Times

236 Hunt starts (It occurs to me that should he fall sick, he would not likely live through its end).

240 The "Myth of the indispensable man created by "FDR" and reclaimed by Kennedy is "ridiculed by" opposed by Hunt. How can this relate to ½ term JFK?

By the end of this section the Hunt-[illegible] focus is clear. It has been built by a prosecution-case like method of leaving what thus far are irrelevancies. Pretty much the same could be done with an enormous number of people and with, what to this point, would be with as much reason & logic